

Bucks County

MARCH 1972 35c

PANORAMA

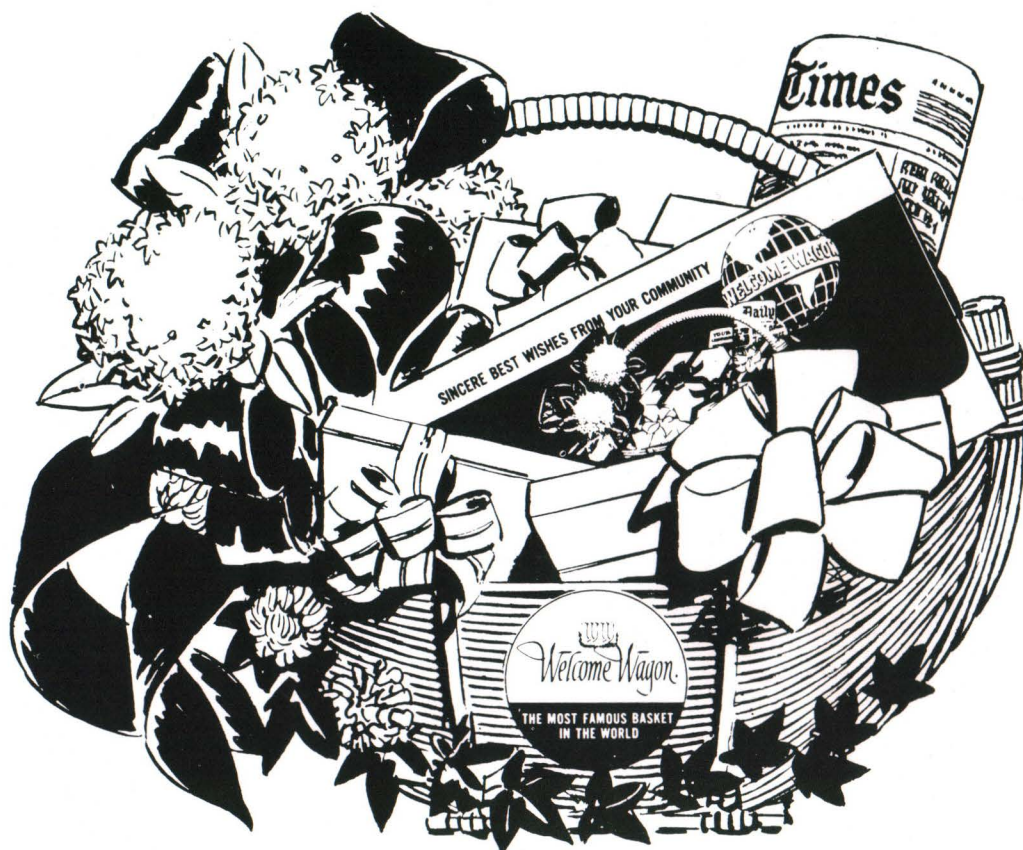


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Bucks County PANORAMA

— The Magazine of Bucks County —

ESTABLISHED 1959

Volume XIV March, 1972 Number 3

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Three Penny Option	<i>Antonio Turzo</i>	4
Misfortune's Master	<i>Knickerbacker Davis</i>	6
Bucks County Herb Heaven	<i>Mildred Johnson</i>	10
Books in Review		11
The Hip-Roofed House		12
Dr. Mercer's Tiles	<i>John H. Deming, Jr.</i>	16
Between Friends	<i>Sheila Martin</i>	18
The Antique Detective	<i>Burt Chardak</i>	21
Bucks County Scenes		22
Rambling with Russ	<i>A. Russell Thomas</i>	26

COVER: *Mercer Tiles depicting William Penn's crest drawn by John H. Deming, Jr.*

CALENDAR of EVENTS

Courtesy of the Bucks County Historical-Tourist Commission

MARCH, 1972

- 1 - 31 WASHINGTON CROSSING — Narration and Famous Painting, "Washington Crossing the Delaware", Daily 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Memorial Building, at ½ hour intervals.
- 1 - 31 WASHINGTON CROSSING — Thompson-Neely House furnished with pre-Revolutionary pieces, Route 32, Washington Crossing State Park. Open 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- 1 - 31 WASHINGTON CROSSING — Old Ferry Inn, Route 532 at the bridge. Restored Revolutionary furniture, gift and snack shop where Washington Punch is sold. Open daily 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- 1 - 31 WASHINGTON CROSSING — Taylor House, built in 1812 by Mahlon K. Taylor, now serves as headquarters for the Washington Crossing Park Commission. Open to the public weekdays 8:30 to 5 p.m. Saturday 8:30 to 11:00 a.m.
- 1 - 31 MORRISVILLE — Pennsbury Manor, the re-created Country Estate of William Penn. Original Manor House was built in 1683. Open daily 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sundays 1 to 4:30 p.m. Admission 50 cents.
- 1 - 31 BRISTOL — The Margaret R. Grundy Memorial Museum, 610 Radcliffe Street, Victorian Decor. Hours: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. 1 to 3 p.m. Other times by appointment.
- 1 - 31 DOYLESTOWN — Mercer Museum, Pine and Ashland Streets. Hours: Tuesday thru Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Monday, Library of the Society — Tuesday thru Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Wed., 1 to 2 p.m. Admission — Adults \$1.00 and children under 12 — 50 cents. Special rates for families and groups. Groups by appointment. Closed January 1st until March 1st.
- 1 - 31 DOYLESTOWN — Moravian Pottery and Tile Works, Swamp Road, Route 313, North of Court Street, Sunday — Noon to 5 p.m., Wednesday thru Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission: \$1.00 for adults, children 25 cents. Special Tours, Group Rates. Closed Christmas.
- 1 - 31 PINEVILLE — Wilmar Lapidary Art Museum. The Country's largest private collection of hand-carved semi-precious stones. Open to the public Tuesday thru Saturday 10 a.m. to 5

(continued on page 14)

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THREE PENNY OPTION

by Antonio Turzo

I was halfway through the door when the telephone rang insistently, five or six times. Joan, my secretary, caught me just in time and told me that a very stubborn gentleman insisted on speaking to me personally, about something very important. I was late, but unwillingly, I took the telephone.

"Who's calling, please," I asked.

The voice at the other end of the phone was gruff, "Mr. Bransinger here."

"What can I do for you?" I tried to be patient.

"I want you to come to see me," he said, "There was an error made against me by your company seventy-nine years ago."

I felt like laughing, but I proceeded cautiously, since he seemed quite upset.

"Seventy-nine years," I said, with a wink at my secretary, "It sounds as if you want to make a fool of me. I'm a hundred and fifty years old myself."

"I don't have time to listen to such nonsense," he said.

"All right, forgive me," I said, "give me your address, the location of your home, and I'll come to see you in person, okay, my friend?"

"Route 611, in Bucks County," he said, "about a

mile and a half from Doylestown. I'll wait for you tomorrow morning at seven o'clock."

I thought to myself, "That's a terrible time of the morning," but I said aloud, "Mr. Bransinger, I will be there. You can count on it. For a mistake of seventy-nine years, I will make an exception to the rule. Goodbye."

"Goodbye," said Mr. Bransinger.

I didn't know the man on the telephone, but the way he spoke to me, I had a pretty good idea what I would find when I met this man. My job as an insurance salesman has given me the opportunity to observe people of all races, all kinds and all ages. I had learned never to judge anyone before I met him.

The following day, against my will, I got up at six o'clock! An unearthly hour. I hurriedly sipped some orange juice and coffee. I jumped into my car and left. As soon as I was fully awake, it felt good to be up so early. The highway was almost deserted. The salubrious country air filled my lungs with pure oxygen which I had missed for years in the city, where the air is adulterated with smog and carbon monoxide from automobiles and factories.

As I rode down the highway, I was aware that I

rode over a piece of land that was rich with the glorious history of the United States. Nor very far away from the highway was Pearl Buck's mansion.

I checked the address Mr. Bransinger had given me. At the end of a very long asphalt driveway, bordered on both sides by straight, tall poplars, I could see a white house on the top of the hill.

I wondered if "George" had slept here, also. There were few homes in Bucks County where the owners did not claim that the "Father of Our Country" had slept there. Poor George, if all the claims were true, he would not have had one night free to sleep with Martha.

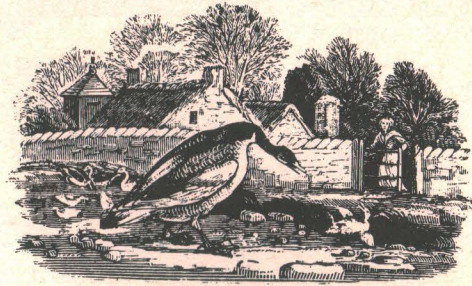
I parked my car at the end of a circular driveway, saw a silo, tall as a church tower, and 100 feet away a red wooden barn. It was ten minutes before seven. I hesitated to knock at the door. The green shutters were opened wide against the immaculate white walls, and the house was in excellent condition.



It was quiet, a mild wind blew on my face. A few chickens picked and scratched at the dirt. A pile of cow dung stood by a fence, and its unpleasant smell assailed my nostrils. A white chicken was busy pulling red worms from the pile. It looked like a piece of sausage. The chicken swallowed it all in one gulp.

Fascinated by the nature of things, I forgot why I was there. No one had come to receive me yet, anyway. The sun was in the east with its luminous rays penetrating the verdant bushes, leaving an indecisive shadow on the humid earth. Then, the noise of dry leaves attracted me towards a rotten tree trunk, covered with ivy. A squirrel, not bigger than the reddish field mice, looked for nuts in the dry grass. With circumspection, the little thief, standing on his very thin back legs, chewed with avidity his furtive treasure, with his eyes closed tight, like a little child who doesn't wish to listen to his mother's recriminations.

A white duck screamed as she pursued a brownish drake, twice her own size, chasing him furiously. He,



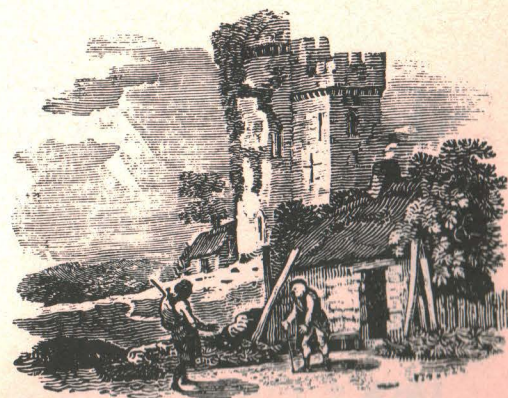
poor thing, was waddling away as fast as he could, swaying side to side like buoy. Once in a while he turned, as if to explain something to her, but she didn't want to listen. She did not give him the opportunity to plead his case.

I realized I must have been there half an hour, and yet my client had not appeared. I knocked at the door, but there was no answer.

I walked toward the red barn, where a dozen cows stood quietly, their udders swollen. They waited to be milked. One looked up at me with her big melancholy eyes, chewing, as transparent saliva was leaking from her mouth.

A sow with her four legs in the air, lay on her side, grunting and giving milk to a dozen reddish pigs. A cloud of bees, violent as a destructive hurricane, surrounded me. I ran from the barn, to free myself from them.

A rough and familiar voice asked, "What are you doing here on my property at this time of the morning?"



(continued on page 20)

In the Township of Buckingham, Bucks County, on heavily traveled Route 202, a twin-sided highway sign informs the public that here is a Magistrational District of the Court of Common Pleas.

Behind it when court is in session, there may be as many as a dozen cars ranked in parking places, their occupants awaiting hearings before Clyde C. Leaver, District Justice of the Peace.

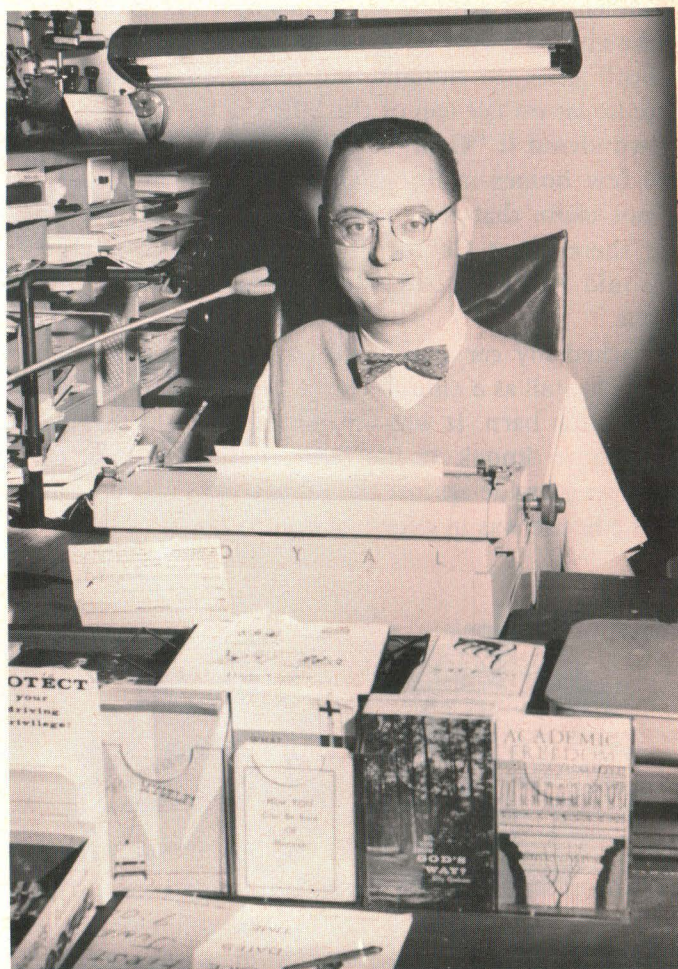
Observing his alert disposal of cases listed on the docket by his Court Administrator, a stranger, unless previously informed, would never guess that the clear-eyed, youthful looking, black-robed jurist is totally immobilized from the neck down!

His Court is one of 17 counter parts throughout the county that were inaugurated to eliminate the log-jams hampering the administration of the higher courts with cases of the minor judiciary. To them for adjudication come a variety of wrongdoings, many to be settled by summery conviction or acquittal. Others of criminal nature are held, with or without bail, for action by the District Attorney.

A cross section of typical cases of a Magisterial District Court includes the daughter of a well-to-do highly respected family weeping as she confessed to shoplifting, an "out-of-towner" charged with defrauding half a dozen merchants with bogus checks, a driver accused of driving under the influence of alcohol and causing a wreck which sent his victims to their deaths.

The efficiency and dispatch with which the Magisterial Districts have discharged their responsibilities have won unqualified approbation of the higher courts, lawyers in general, and law enforcement officials.

In 1945, District Justice Clyde Leaver was a husky young helper on his father's farm in Buckingham. He



MISFORTUNE'S MASTER

by Knickerbacker Davis

was an honor high school graduate, member of the Pennsylvania National Guard, holder of a plane pilot's license, and enthusiastic hunter and fisherman and lover of the great outdoors.

Then cruelly, without warning, disaster struck overnight — polio in its most devastating form. Hospitalized, he lay delirious for weeks while specialists and nurses did all within their powers to bring him back from the brink of death. Then, with the barest of footholds gained, there followed two months more in the iron lung in an isolation ward. A total of ten months passed before he was returned to his parents with his mind as miraculously clear and quick-thinking as it had always been, but otherwise completely paralyzed.

Cut off from every normal physical activity, Clyde began a fresh start in life. His first venture, a business

of Christmas and greeting cards, personalized stationery, and magazine subscriptions, soon became a worthwhile enterprise housed in a corner of his parents' home.

This was expanded when, with the elder Leaver's retirement from farming and disposal of the family's acreage, Clyde was given a substantial portion of the proceeds with which to build a snug home of his own. To this was added an attractive Gift Shop, appropriately named "The Open Door", with transfer to it of his already successful business. His partner, as well as home-maker and wife was the hospital nurse whose steadfast devotion and encouragement had bouyed him through the agonies and crises of his affliction and whom he married in 1949.

Always having had an active interest in the betterment of community and county affairs, in 1960 Clyde Leaver was induced to run for Justice of the Peace of Buckingham Township. He was unanimously elected and re-elected for a second term, this time as District Justice of the Peace not only for Buckingham but also its four surrounding townships, the second largest land area within Bucks County. There he directs the many ramifications of a Magisterial Districts' functions carried out by his Court Administrator and Clerk.

Within his easy "head reach" is a battery of especially designed equipment that includes a telephone, home-and-office intercom, radio, tape recorder and television. All are operated by a slender metal rod guided by a mouth-piece held between his teeth that at his will extracts and restores memos and other reference data from his files. Clyde also inserts, removes, and folds communications expertly tapped by him on an electric typewriter. Coupled with these is a "mouth-pen" also held between his teeth with which he dexterously writes his signature and jots down notes.

Despite his long and arduous days, he finds time for full enjoyment of home and family life. When interviewed he had just completed a family vacation enjoying the great outdoors. The Leavers' pretty eighteen-year-old daughter is a college student, their sixteen-year-old son is still in high school. All are active church members of the Baptist faith. But as Clyde put it: "Being a dedicated Christian, no matter what denomination, is what really counts. I was raised in a religious family but it took what happened to me for me to realize that God through His spiritual disciplines opens the door to fulfillment of His will."

Truly, Clyde Leaver should be an inspiration to all those who feel their lives seem hopelessly handicapped.



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RESTAURANT OF THE MONTH

Anchor is a small village in Wrightstown Township at the junction of Durham Road and the old Richboro and Pineville Turnpike Road, midway between Pineville and Wrightstown. The village takes its name from its famous Anchor Tavern, one of the very oldest in the county. The tavern was built about 1724 by Joseph Hampton who kept it as a public house for several years. He was prominent in the early affairs of Wrightstown Monthly Meeting, member of the Provincial Assembly from Bucks County, a collector of excise for ten years (1757-1767) and an outstanding experimenter in agriculture, having planted the first orchard of grafted apple trees in the county.

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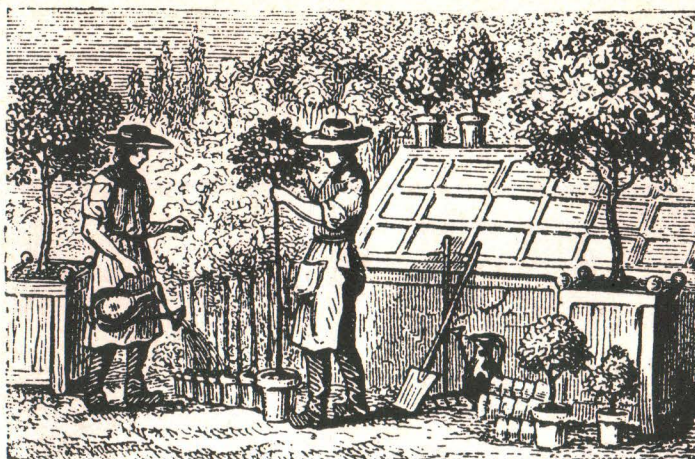
766-8540

Closed Monday

Sundays — Dining from 12:00 to 7:30

Lunch Daily 12:00 to 2:30

Dinner — 5:00 to 10:00



BUCKS COUNTY HERB HEAVEN

by Mildred Johnson

Recently I called on some friends in Bucks County. They had moved last year to a lovely section of this county, into a renovated stone house.

After the usual greetings, she took me through the dwelling with pride of possession, but once outside she pointed to an enclosed part of the backyard, bubbling out, "Here you see my joy - my well-planted, tended and loved herb garden."

"At dinner today, you'll find most of the dishes I serve pepped up with a touch of this or that herb. My husband says I would even put herbs in ice-cream if I could only raise vanilla beans in this climate."

She went on, "The first book I took out of the library after moving here was one on herbs. Did you know that in European countries the inhabitants of a place consider their herb garden to be the heart of the property? Way back in history, all Egyptian and Greek brides included oil of anise in their hope chests!"

She pointed to the rosemary, saying, "This is a member of the lavender family. William Penn insisted it be planted in his garden at Pennsbury stating 'let it run in my garden for its fine odor and remembrance of England'. Some of its best usages are in poultry stuffing (the way I am using it today), or with veal.

It's also great sprinkled into meatloaf or even dotted on fish (before cooking). One old book flatly stated 'Rosemary grows best when the mister is master'.

"Of course you see this wild luxuriant plant on this corner is mint. After tramping around, we'll relax in the house with a tall, frosty mint julip served by my husband. Everyone knows that mint jelly or mint sauce is tops with lamb. For the mint sauce, I press a few leaves in a small amount of water and heat for ten minutes, add vinegar and a wee bit of sugar and cool. Mint jelly heated for five minutes is tempting poured over vanilla ice-cream. In the year 1400, mint was used to whiten teeth and to insure a sweet breath after drinking ale.

Did you know that Anise is a member of the carrot family. It is used for flavoring cakes or cake icing, or to spice up cookies. It's added to liquor also.

Thyme is best for stews and soups. It dates back to Biblical times when it was burned as a fumigation for dwellings. At the Christmas season, it was included in all Nativity scenes mixed in with the straw of the manger.

Here's my parsley bed. It is also related to the

(continued on page 24)

BOOKS IN REVIEW

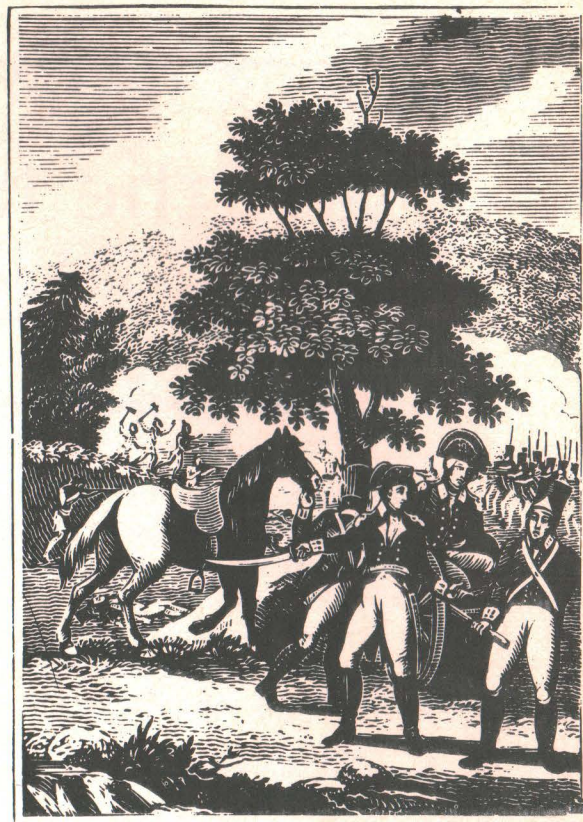
THE WAR OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE by Don Higginbotham. The Macmillan Company, New York, 1971. 509 pp. \$12.95.

The American Revolution has always been popular with authors and historians. With the approach of the Bicentennial the public interest has been aroused and the publishing tempo of both popular and scholarly works has increased. *Panorama* has brought news of some of the outstanding offerings, most of which are concerned with a particular person or event, to its readers. Professor Higginbotham's contribution appears to be the first dealing with the broad spectrum of America's fight for independence.

The author is a military historian, best known for his biography of one-time Bucks Countian Daniel Morgan, and *The War of American Independence* is a military history covering the period from 1763 to 1789. The expansion beyond the normal period of coverage provides for a more complete study of the causes and consequences. Don't choose this book in search of vivid and detailed descriptions of battles since this is military history in the broadest sense; the military conflict is placed in the political, social, and economic context of the times. Professor Higginbotham, making liberal use of the most recent scholarship in addition to the usual primary sources, has plainly and forcefully illustrated his initial premises that armies are projections of the society from which they spring, and that the interaction between warfare and society produces changes in both the civil and military institutions in a country.

The term "relevance" has become trite, but, as any reading of the news can prove, the author's premises are as valid in 1972 as they were in 1776. His discussion of our early anti-military sentiments, based on an historical Anglo-American fear of standing armies, have a modern ring although the basic national defense issues are more complex than they were 200 years ago. The last chapter is brilliant; the problems facing America today pale in comparison to those faced in converting 13 proud and independent colonies, conditioned by a revolution, into a united nation.

H.W.B.



THE IRISH by Richard O'Connor. G. P. Putnam's Sons. New York, 1971. 384 pp. \$7.95.

With St. Patrick's Day upon us, it seems a good time to discuss an extremely fine book about the most charming, most unique, and most misunderstood people in the world — the Irish. (This reviewer is not going to let her Irish heritage influence her judgment.)

Mr. O'Connor thoroughly explores the haunts of the elusive "real" Irish — the pub, the church, the school, the home. The facts may disillusion but yet inform those who hold a certain image of the typical Irishman.

The author goes into Irish politics and the history of the IRA which is still making news today. Some of the great Irish heroes are pictured — Michael Collins, Arthur Griffith, and that half-Irish, half Spanish gentleman born in Manhattan, Eamon De Valera.

A little known segment of the population, the Anglo-Irish, is discussed as well as the extremely chauvinistic and rather unsuccessful use of Gaelic as the national tongue.

The book is great reading for Irish and those not so lucky both; and a people who can poke gentle fun at others and yet be always be ready to laugh at themselves can't be all bad.

S.W.M.

the hip-roofed house

On the old road leading from the anchor to Addisville, now the Richboro Turnpike, near the Neshaminy Meadows, stands an old hip-roofed mansion, with strong walls, dark with age, the present home of Benjamin Fenton. This house was formerly the home of the Thompsons, and tradition says was built by the Cummings family some 25 years before the revolution.

It is said to have been purchased at Sheriff's Sale by John Thompson,, who afterwards purchased the mill nearby and followed milling and farming. He was sheriff in 1777-78 and was an ardent patriot in the Revolutionary struggle. When the present building of the Newtown Presbyterian congregation was erected, about 113 years ago, Mr. Thompson purchased the frame church, located one mile west of Newtown, the site of which is still marked by an old graveyard, and removed it to his place, where it was turned into a barn. Cummings kept a tavern in this house, and the road at the time ran in front of the door and around the barn. Thompson straightened the road after it came into his possession to its present location. The meadow lying toward the farm of Achilles Warner was known as "the maple swamp", in which Thompson concealed his horses from marauders who infested the county during the Revolutionary War. Flour was furnished from the mill to the army, and was hauled by Thompson's team to the bake house located on the farm of Charles King, near Andalusia.

After the revolution, Thompson built a storehouse for his flour near the place of the late Nicholas Biddle, his team hauling barrelled flour daily from the storehouse, over the Buck Road through Byberry, to the Philadelphia Market. A former old resident of Byberry informed the writer that the driver of Thompson's team was an ex-British grenadier, who wore his blazing uniform of crimson with brass facings, and in cold weather added his scarlet army

overcoat, and was for several years an object of interest to the scholars at Byberry Friend's School whenever he passed. Thompson sometimes accompanied the team, mounted upon a fine horse, and would generally stop at the Byberry cross roads, then the business center of the township.

Thompson's place was robbed soon after the revolution, and the event was long talked of throughout the county. Thompson had received from the Bank of North America some \$700 in large notes, the numbers of which were registered and put away on his arrival at home. Soon after, just as he and his men had seated themselves at the supper table, they were surprised by the entrance into the house of three men armed with horse pistols. The robbers, pointing their pistols, ordered the men at the table to stand and deliver on peril of death. Thompson, being a man of great courage, seized a heavy poker lying near, and calling upon his men to fight, he struck one of the robbers a blow on the head that knocked him down. Another of the robbers picked up the pistol of his fallen comrade and shot at Thompson as he rushed through a door to an adjoining room, intending to reach the mill, where he had two loaded muskets. The ball missed its aim, and the robber followed him into the room and threatened him with instant death if he moved.

They finally succeeded in searching and robbing the house. One of the men, John Cahoon, a cooper by trade, who occupied the old tenant house yet standing, across the road, stole his way upstairs, leaped from a window down upon a pile of wood and escaped. The robbers took notes, silver and gold to a large amount. They broke open a chest belonging to John McGraudy, the hired man, and took from it nearly \$100 in gold. Grandmother Thompson had secreted a bag of specie upon her person, but the robbers left her sitting undisturbed in her chair. They

took all the silverware of the family and escaped.

Tradition says that Thompson was at that time the custodian of some county funds, but no record is at hand to confirm this statement. The banks were immediately notified of the robbery and a description and the numbers of the notes furnished. About a year thereafter a man presented these notes at the Bank of North America. The vigilant cashier seeing that they were the stolen notes, made an excuse for delay in waiting upon him, and called in a police officer, who arrested the man. Thompson was sent for and identified the prisoner as one of the robbers, when he was placed in prison. He was permitted to write to a friend in New York, through whom he desired to obtain bail. The letter was opened by the authorities, and Thompson accompanied by the Chief of Police of Philadelphia, proceeded to New York in search of the other robbers.

Arriving at New York, the Mayor of that city detailed officers to assist the Philadelphia Police in their search, and together they called at the place indicated in the letter. The door bell was answered by a colored boy, who was pushed aside, and the party entered and inquired for the person named in the letter. The boy told them that he could not be seen, when a side door opened and the second robber stepped out, demanding the meaning of such an invasion of his premises. Thompson seized him, replying that he was the villain who shot at him in his own house, and robbed the premises. He was manacled, and both prisoners were subsequently taken to Newtown.

Some say they were sentenced to long terms of imprisonment, while others state that Patrick Hurter, then jailer at Newtown, let one of the prisoners escape and that the other paid a large sum of money to escape punishment. The third robber was thought to have been a person living some miles south of the robbery, who left for Western Pennsylvania as soon as the arrests were made, and returned after the trial. Some years afterward a traveler stopping at a tavern on the Pittsburg Road recognized some of the heavy old silverware which had belonged to Thompson, but none of it was ever recovered.

The old place looks as though its solid walls would stand the storms of centuries. Although it has been somewhat modernized by changes, the heavy panel work on the walls look as firm as when finished by the skilled workmen. The plastering is solid, and it is hoped that the building will long remain as a monument among fading landmarks of the past.

(The above account was published in the Newtown Enterprise in 1882.)

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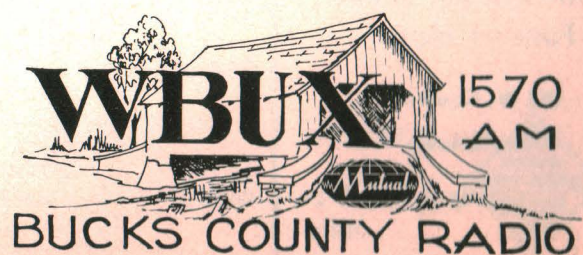
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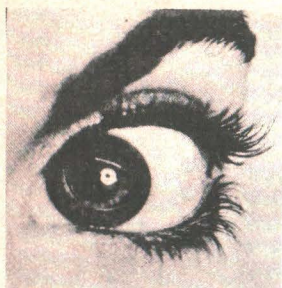
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(CALENDAR cont. from page 3)

- 1 - 31 DOYLESTOWN — National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Ferry Road, Guided tours — Sunday 2 p.m., other tours upon request by reservations. Phone — 345-0600. Shrine Religious Gift Shop open 7 days a week 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free parking. Brochure available.
- 1 - 31 TELFORD — Lockwood Galleries, 345 Church Road. Paintings, sculpture, pottery and weaving exhibits. Hours: 6 to 10 p.m. Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- 1 - 31 CHURCHVILLE — The Outdoor Education Center, Churchville County Park. Open daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday 2 to 5 p.m. Family Nature Programs — 2:30 p.m. Sundays.
- 1 - 31 WASHINGTON CROSSING — Ice Skating, "The Lagoon", near the western entrance to the park, weather permitting. FREE.
- 3,4 DOYLESTOWN — 11th Annual Variety Show, by Doylestown Lions Club, to be held at Central Bucks High School, East. Tickets.
- 4 WASHINGTON CROSSING — Children's Nature Hike, 10 a.m. to 12 Noon. Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve Headquarters.
- 5 WASHINGTON CROSSING — Adult Nature Hike, 2 to 3 p.m. Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve Headquarters.
- 9,10 SELLERSVILLE — Antique Show, Sponsored by the Twiglings to benefit the Quakertown Hospital, VFW Forrest Lodge, Old Bethlehem Pike 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- 10 DOYLESTOWN — West Point Glee Club will present a concert in Lenape Jr. High School, 8:30 p.m., sponsored by the YMCA. Tickets \$2.50, at the YMCA, Doylestown, Rutherford, 23 W. State St., The Wickery in Peddler's Village.
- 11 HOLICONG — Bucks County Symphony will present two Young People's Concerts, in the Central Bucks High School East Auditorium, 2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Tickets.
- 11,17,18 SOUTHAMPTON — Eugene Klinger Jr. High will stage "Carnival", as their annual musical. For tickets and further information, call the school.
- 13-19 CHURCHVILLE — Churchville County Park will present special exhibits, etc. — RECOGNIZE WILDLIFE WEEK.
- 15-31 FALLSINGTON — Burges-Lippincott House and Stagecoach Tavern. 18th Century architecture. Open for the season to the public Wed. thru Sun. 1 to 5 p.m. Admission: Adults 50 cents, Children under 12 free if accompanied by an adult, Students 25 cents.
- 16,17,18 BRISTOL — Bristol High School Drama Club will present "South Pacific", in the High School Auditorium. For tickets and information, call the school.
- 17,18,19 LEVITTOWN — Bishop Conwell High School will present the musical "Fiddler on the Roof," directed by John Roch. For tickets and information, call the school.

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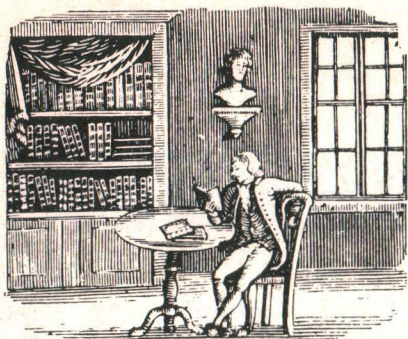
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COLLECTOR'S ITEMS



Back copies of *Panorama* are available for \$.50 each, post paid. The number is limited. A wealth of interesting historical articles, old pictures of Bucks County, and other articles are contained in each issue.

Feature articles in 1967 include:

- Jan. — *Civil War Collection*
- Feb. — *The Iron Horse — Phila. to Doylestown*
- Mar. — *Mayor Daniel Atkinson*
— *Early Entertainment in Bucks County*
- Apr. — *A Country Cooper*
- May. — *Bucks County and Currier and Ives*
- June — *The Bucks County Rescue Squad*
- July — *The Story of Summerseat*
- Aug. — *Learning at Ramblerny*
- Sept. — *Epicure Maurice Brockway*
- Oct. — *Phillips Mill*
— *Bucks County Witch — Mary Hammerstein*
- Nov. — *The Doan Outlaws*
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- Dec. — *Patch Collector*
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Story and Art

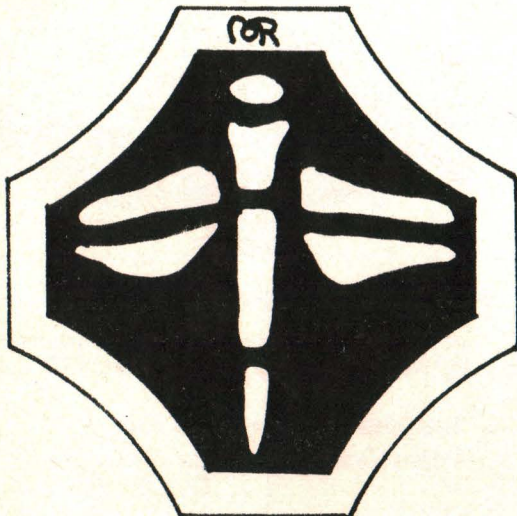
by John H. Deming, Jr.



One of 30 tiles in the animal series - sometimes known as Rollo, after Dr. Mercer's dog - one can see Rollo's stairs at Fonthill in Doylestown.



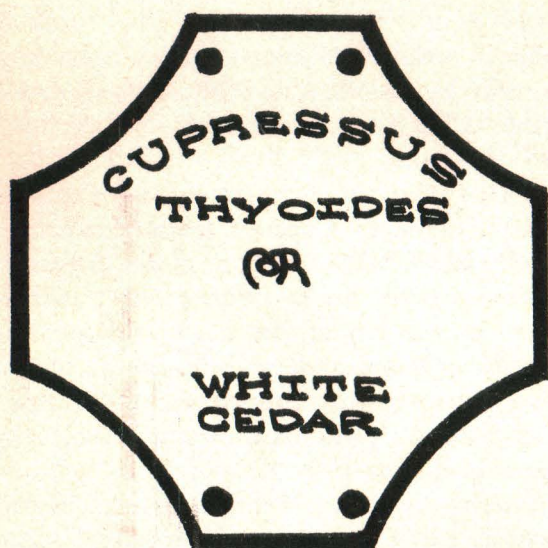
The architecture tile - one of a series of 4 (the other 3 - music - art - literature). This tile is prized by architects the country over. The Latin inscription reads - architecture builds the home.



The dragon fly - this tile a collector's treasure - for unlike most Mercer tiles, this one is hand painted rather than in relief - the MOR at the top is the symbol used by Mercer for Moravian - the name of his pottery - some tiles had the word Moravian stamped on the back.



Striking fire with tinderbox - a filigree border tile because of its lace-like border. Dr. Mercer called this and like tiles his delft tiles. However, the flat blue unglaze finish is closer to a wedge-wood blue.



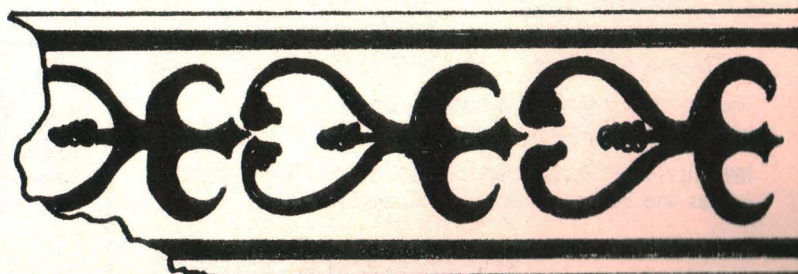
These tiles were wired to the trees at Fonthill and around the Doylestown area to aid those interested in identifying the trees. There were at least 3 tile configurations, the one above being the most common. Very few of these tiles were even glazed.



Harvard College (Veritas). Dr. Mercer was a graduate of Harvard - he designed many tiles inspired by his days at Harvard, and the history of Boston. The crest of Harvard is one of the rare tiles. One can see how all these tiles were made at the Moravian pottery and tiles works.



Original design by Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881) the English essayist and historian. The inscription: I burn while I am of use.



This border tile, more decorative than most, could have been set in a fire place to set off other tiles. Dr. Mercer, a collector of tiles from all corners of the world, set his collection in the walls of Fonthill, using very plain border tiles.



BETWEEN FRIENDS

by Sheila Martin



March is here and with it comes this editor's favorite holiday, St. Patrick's Day. So let me wish all our readers the top of the morning and all that.

A Bucks County artist, William A. Smith, of Pineville has the honor to have his design for a new postage stamp accepted. The eight cent stamp will feature a portrait of Sidney Lanier, 19th century lyric poet from Georgia. This is the third stamp in the American Poet Series.

A Luncheon and Fashion Show sponsored by the Doctors' Wives of Doylestown Hospital will be held on March 6 at 11 a.m. at the Cock and Bull Restaurant in Peddler's Village, Lahaska. Reservations may be made by mail to Mrs. Richard Vanderbeek at 664 Spring Valley Road, Doylestown.

The Bucks County Department of Parks and Recreation announces a special fee schedule for all Senior Citizens who are County residents, 65 years of age and older. The Bucks County Commissioners, upon recommendation of the Bucks County Parks and Recreation Board, approved the special fees in a sincere attempt to offer County Senior Citizens an opportunity to enjoy the park resources which they may have helped to perpetuate.

Applications for the "Senior Citizen Courtesy Card" will be available at Bucks County Park System program centers and established Senior Citizen Centers. A Senior Citizen who desires a "Courtesy Card" may fill out the application form and mail or bring it to the Bucks County Department of Parks and Recreation, 6th Floor, Administration Building, Doylestown.

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The Miss Bucks County Pageant Committee is soliciting the assistance of the community in its search for entries to the Lower Bucks County Chamber of Commerce sponsored event.

This year's pageant, which is the official preliminary Miss America Pageant, will be held April 15 at the Council Rock High School Auditorium, Newtown.

According to A. Marlyn Moyer, Jr., General Chairman of the Committee, the scholarships available to the winners are an important benefit to the young women entering.

Over \$850,000 in scholarships are awarded annually at the state, local and national Miss America pageants, therefore, it is the largest scholarship foundation in the world for young women.

Interested parents and friends are encouraged to write or call the Lower Bucks County Chamber of Commerce and recommend any eligible young women.

The deadline for entries is March 9 and the preliminary screening will be held on March 11.

Entry blanks are available at the Chamber Office, 409 Hood Boulevard, Fairless Hills, 19030 or from

the county commissioners office and school counselors.

Basic requirements for entering the pageant are: Single and never married; high school graduate by Labor Day, 1972; a U. S. Citizen by June, 1972; be of good moral character, with no criminal convictions.

Also, possess talent, poise, personality, intelligence, charm and beauty of face and figure; present a talent routine or talk in not more than three minutes; and be a resident of Bucks County for at least six months prior to April 15, or attend a Bucks County College.

* * *

The newly formed Central Bucks High School West Environmental Action Committee recently received a federal grant for research on the effects of transportation on urban sprawl. The grant came from Project C.A.R.E. (Cooperative Action to Restore our Environment) which is set up to aid elementary and secondary school projects in environmental action and education.

C.B.-West was one of 17 schools selected from 67

(continued on page 25)

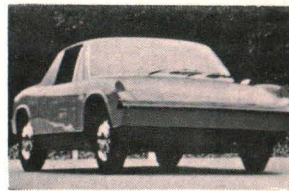
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THREE PENNY con't from page 5

"I have an appointment for seven o'clock with a Mr. Bransinger. Unfortunately, it's seven-thirty and he's not here yet. If he doesn't come in five minutes, I will have to leave."

"I am Mr. Bransinger," he said, "I'm sorry if I'm a little late, but I had to finish loading the hay. The radio reported last night that it might rain."

He was a tall, thin old gentleman, with white tufted hair like swabs of cotton and the most penetrating green eyes.

"You are Mr. Turzo, aren't you?"

"Yes, I am," I said.

"Well, come inside the house," he was at once cordial.

The house was furnished with 17th century French furniture, oriental rugs and cloissone lamps. He looked a little strange standing in the middle of the expensive rug in his overalls and boots, like a farmer who had wandered into a palace by mistake.

He strode over to a massive oak desk and pulled out one of the drawers. He took out a large red portfolio and riffled through it.

"Here it is," he was triumphant.

He gave me a paper that I was afraid to hold in my hands. It was yellowed and dissolving in the folds. I took the aged document and held it beneath the light from a window. I began to read it, praying it would not fall to pieces in my hand.

I looked for the face value, the premium, and also the year the policy was issued. The date was April 3rd, 1890, and the gentleman who stood before me, Mr. Bransinger, was twenty years old when he took the policy. I looked up at him, making a mental count. He was ninety-nine years old.

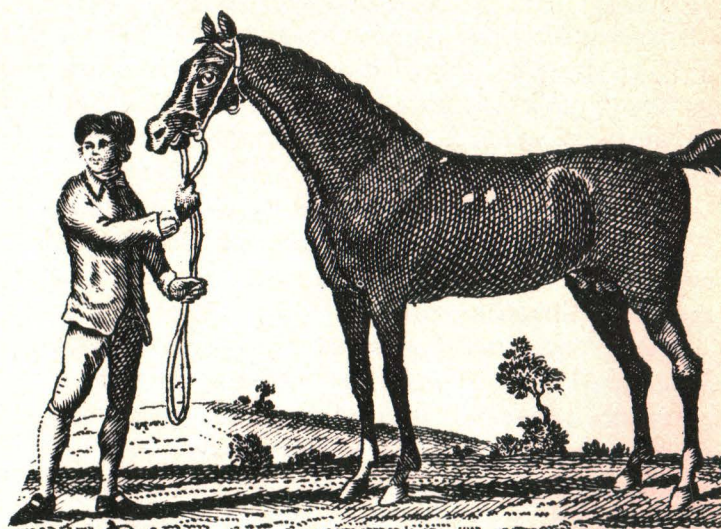
"God bless you," I blurted, "I hope I reach half your age. And this policy, my God! What a rare thing to have today. A three-cent policy! Ninety-nine years old; it's unbelievable."

The old man was pleased, "My ancestors came from Germany two hundred years ago for religious reasons. I was born in Perkasio, Pennsylvania, a big town now, on top of a hill."

As I discussed the policy with the old gentleman, another well-dressed man came in without knocking at the door; evidently one of the family. It was also evident that he was not a farmer. He lived in the city of Philadelphia.

"My son, Roy," said the old man, "he breeds thoroughbred horses." He was filled with pride.

"I am crazy about horses," I told him, "I would like to see them."



He led me down to the stable. Some of the most beautiful throughbreds I had ever seen stood there, their coats as shiny as velvet in the early morning light.

We went back to the house. I asked the old man, "Now, what can I do for you? I want to give you the service you certainly deserve after seventy-nine years."

"I want to know how much I get if I surrender this policy. For seventy-nine years, I should get at least a thousand dollars. I would get more than that if I'd left it in the bank."

I didn't wish to contradict him, but I said, "You are probably right. You paid three cents a week for seventy-nine years, is that right?"

"Yes," said the old man.

"So, the cost for one year is one dollar and fifty-six cents. Let's see now, multiplied by seventy-nine. You have paid \$123.24. Therefore, since you paid only one-hundred and twenty-three dollars and twenty-four cents, how can we give you a thousand dollars? First of all, I think you should keep this policy. When you are one-hundred years old next year, I would be willing to bet you could sell that policy to the museum for more money than you would get from us."

"That's not a bad idea," he said, but I could tell he was disappointed.

"In other words," I said, "you are satisfied that I am working in your best interests, is that right?"

"I suppose you're right," he said.



by Burt Chardak

Bottle hunters are as secretive as bootleggers. They not only refuse to tell you where they have been digging out their treasures, they won't even tell you how they go about it.

There's my friend Ed Riley, for example. Ed is chief greenskeeper for a golf club. He works pretty hard at it, especially in the late summer when it's pretty dry.

But every spare hour Ed gets, he's out there with his trowel hoping to find a farm dump loaded with bitters bottles or at least a couple of good blob tops.

The other day when Ed was over at the house I said:

"Ed, I'm going to write a column about bottles, and I'd like to tell the readers how to go about finding them. What's your technique?"

"Oh, no," Ed replied. "I'm not telling."

"But," I countered, "I'm not asking you where your favorite dumps are. All I'm asking is how you go about it."

"Forget it," Ed replied.

However, from watching Ed before he knew I was going to write about him, I gleaned a few hints.

First, you have to get pretty far out in the country, preferably upstate — Schuylkill, Northampton, Luzerne Counties. That's where you'll find some deserted farms. If they're not deserted, better ask the farmer for permission to search.

Go to the rear of the farm house and face the back forty. Pick the corner on the low side of the slope of the land. That's where you'll find the old dump. Other dumps are along backroads in wooded areas and along stream banks.

Ed can tell after a few minutes' digging whether a particular dump will yield old bottles. Usually, the digger will come across medicine bottles of the early

(continued on page 29)



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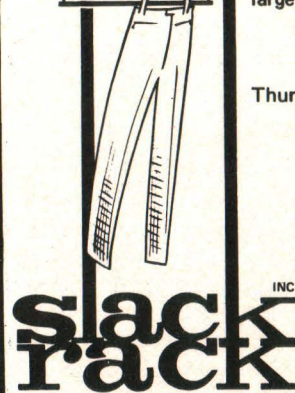


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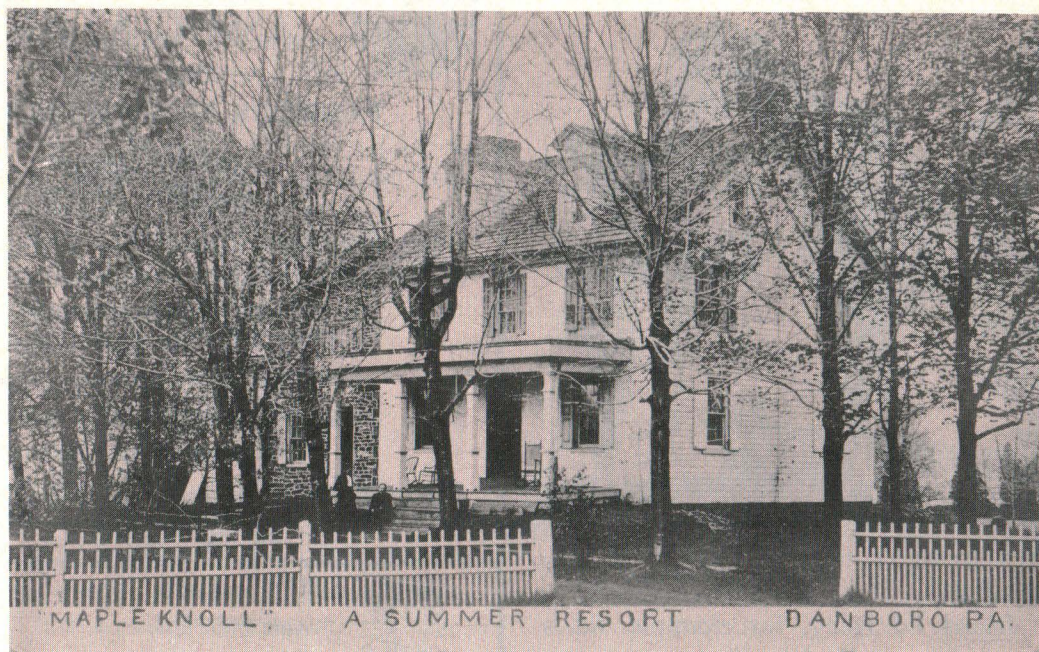
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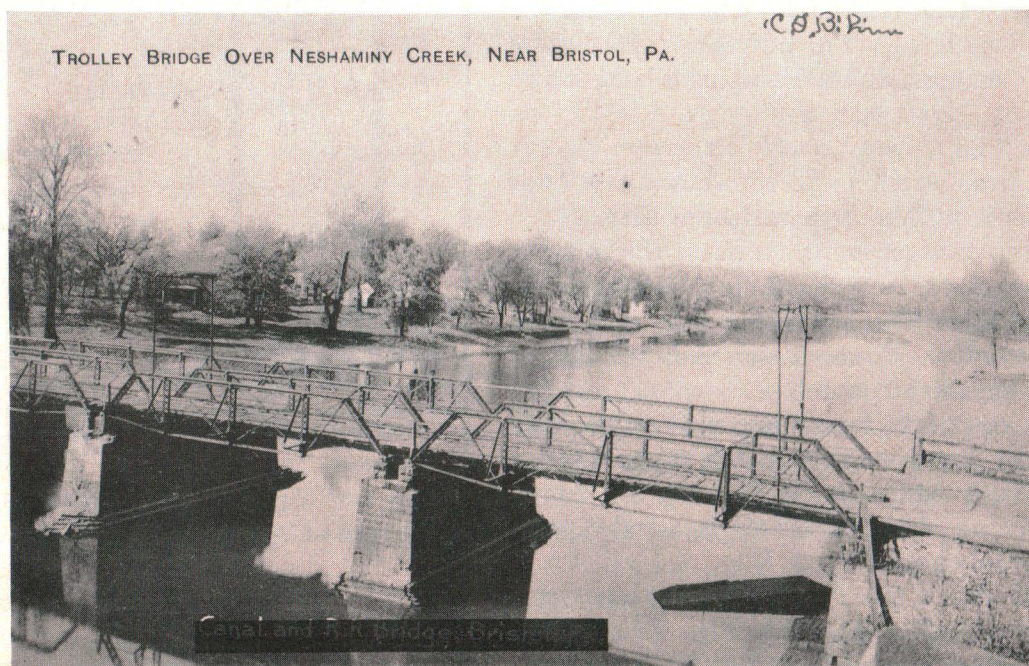
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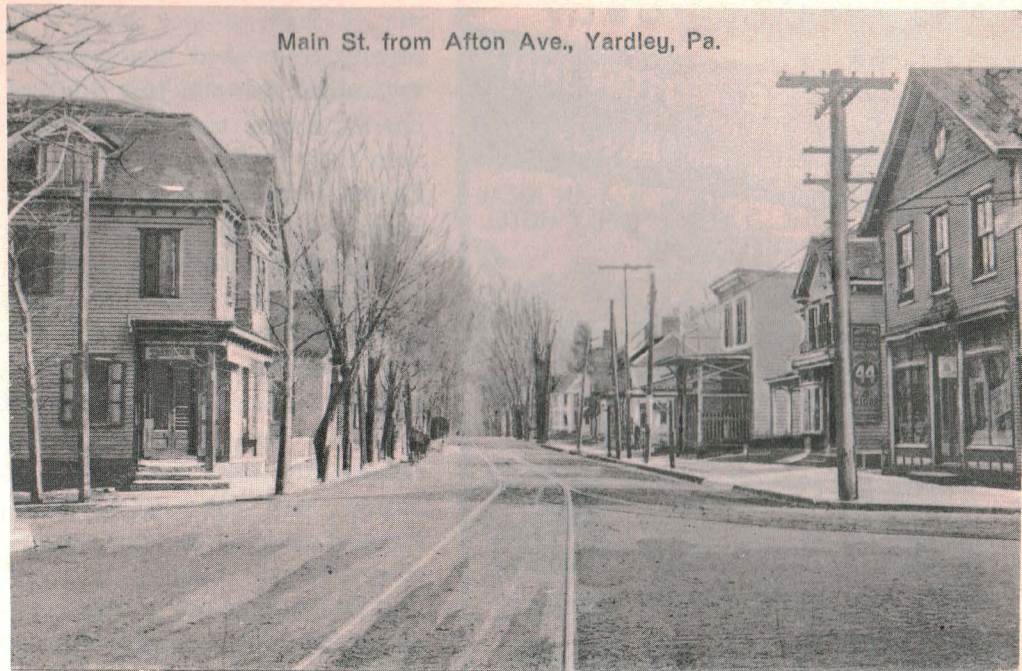
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HERBS con't from page 10

carrots and used on potatoes, as a garnish on vegetables, fish etc. Just think of it, Homer's favorite chariot horses were all fed parsley leaves mixed in with their food to aid them in winning races for him! I plant seeds in the fall, protect them and have early greens in the spring. Carry-over plants are not good.

Caraway (Arabic) is scrumptious in cheese, cabbage and bread. I sprinkle it on potatoes, and stir it in my homemade salad dressing. It was most popular in Shakespeare's time, when the seeds and roasted apples were both consumed together.

Chives. We mustn't forget them. Combined with radishes and cucumbers all icy cold in a bowl of sour cream — well, you'll get a chance to sample it in a few minutes along with your drink, and you can tell me then what you think.

I always have one row of green onions or scallions, and a few globe strong onions too. The latter I slice under water (to spare my eyes). One batch I slice, one, I cube and the third I chop real fine, storing all in separate plastic packages in the freezer."

Before I left that day, after a wonderful herbed dinner, she handed me a shoebox filled with small jars each one containing a smidgin of her beloved herbs along with her grandmother's cherished recipe for:

ANISE SEEDED BREAD

- 3 eggs
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 lemon (grated rind and juice lemon)
- ½ teaspoon vanilla
- 1 teaspoon of anise seeds
- 3 cups flour
- ½ cup butter, or margarine
- 1 tablespoon baking powder

Beat eggs well, add sugar and lemon, vanilla, seeds and butter. Mix baking powder with flour and add. Knead the mixture with floured hands on a lightly floured board and shape into two long narrow loaves about two inches in diameter. Bake in greased pan at 325 degrees for twenty minutes. Remove from oven and cut while still warm into ½ inch slices. The bread is excellent, or even better next day buttered and toasted under broiler.

The next day, I propped up the recipe and began. Later as I drank a cup of minted tea and munched on the anise bread, it brought back, not only kind thoughts of my friends, but the heavenly scent and remembrance of a Bucks County herb garden.

FRIENDS con't from page 19

applicants to receive a grant totaling \$5,925. The grant will be used for equipment and supplies in the field study of the land directly adjacent to the new Route 611 by-pass.

Bucks County Community College students, faculty, alumni and administrators, along with other friends and former Pennsbury High School students, have launched the Joseph H. Heard Family Fund.

The fund is in memory of Joseph H. Heard, the College's director of admissions and records and former Pennsbury teacher, who died suddenly Jan. 23.

Heard, 36, a Churchville resident, had been the admissions administrator since 1967. During that period more than 12,000 persons registered at the two-year college for academic courses.

Active in state and national professional associations of admissions directors and counselors, Heard not only assisted students - ranging from the less than average to the gifted - in solving admissions problems, but he also helped scores of students to transfer to four-year colleges.

As one of the outstanding basketball and baseball players in the history of Moravian College, Heard was understanding and helpful to student-athletes who wanted to start their higher education at BCCC. He remained an active athlete, participating in the student intramural sports.

One responsibility that held Heard's special interest was that of handling veterans affairs. He won the appreciation of many returning Vietnam veterans for expediting their applications and cutting other red tape regarding their government assistance.

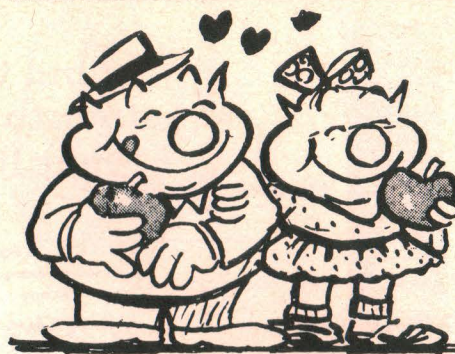
Mr. Heard's wife, Carol, is a former school teacher who is now a full-time mother to her sons, Joseph, 6, Brian, 4, and Jonathan, 2.

As a family man, Heard was attuned to the questions and unique problems experienced by mature women and mothers whom he constantly encouraged and counseled as they resumed or began their college educations.

Active in civic affairs, Heard was one of the 33 founding members of St. John's United Methodist Church of Ivyland.

The Joseph H. Heard Family Fund was established by colleagues in response to individual requests for some way of friends and students to express their sentiments for the admissions director and his contributions to the growth of the College.

(continued on page 30)



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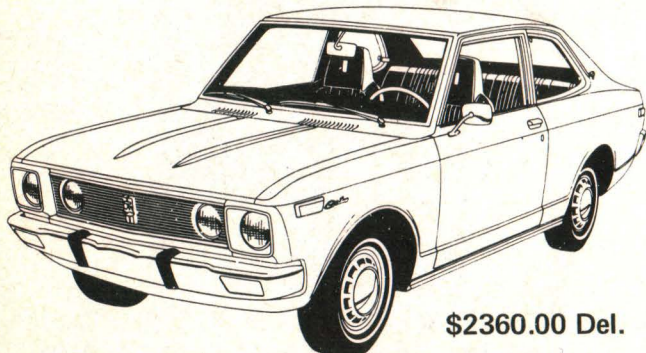
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MARCH



Rambling with Russ

by

A. Russell Thomas

BACK IN CIRCULATION

A BELATED Happy New Year to my many friends and all Panorama readers including more than 200 who sent me get-well cards or letters during the recent holiday season. This Rambler spent the Christmas season as a patient in the Doylestown Hospital and the New Year's season convalescing in the Garden Court Nursing Home (Doylestown) on orders by my faithful and capable medical adviser, Dr. C. Clifford Laudenslager. Now that I have been discharged from the hospital and nursing home feeling like a much younger Rambler, I would like to record the following in PANORAMA:

THAT THE DOYLESTOWN Hospital and the nursing staff there are among the very best and efficient in the country. No finer small hospital anywhere. And so far as I am concerned The Garden Court Nursing Home owned by Sidney Simons is in the same classification.

MEMBERS OF THE Doylestown Hospital nursing staff I want to thank include Miss D. Miller, Mrs. E. Volare, Mrs. D. Phillips, Mrs. G. Smith, Miss J. Breithaupt, Mrs. J. Strelbski, Miss L. York, Mrs. F. Rairie, Mrs. S. Munger, Mrs. E. Givena, Mrs. S. Dturm, Mrs. C. Garis, Mrs. G. Briscoe, Mrs. J. Rook, Mrs. M. Birisch, and Mrs. J. Austin.

TWO PALS AT the nursing home I'll never forget are my roommate, Wilbur (Cookie) Cook, an amputee minus both legs, and Gus Elfman, retired Doylestown builder, both of whom have been in Garden Court for seven years. "Cookie" never complained in spite of his major handicap and he was just as good for me as medicine and the nine pills a day prescribed for me. From my friend Gus I leavned all about Bucks County of yesteryear and the many well known houses built by the Elfmans. Also enjoyable at Garden Court were visits with Ed Steely, retired Doylestown banker and realtor, who has been a patient there for two years.

GOOD PUBLIC RELATIONS — From J. Marik, administrator of the Doylestown Hospital, I received this letter: "On behalf of the entire staff of the Doylestown Hospital, I would like to say it has been a privilege to have served you during your recent stay as a patient. I sincerely hope that you have benefited from the care your community hospital has been able to render. It is also our hope that you found all services satisfactory. If you have any suggestions or criticisms concerning our services, the hospital will benefit by hearing from you. Our most treasured asset is the good will of our patients."

* * *

YE OLD GOLFING DAYS

THE FIRST golf course in Doylestown serving Central Bucks County was a four-hole affair, with "browns" instead of greens. Fancy grass was not grown in those days, like it is today at Doylestown Country Club's fine 18-hole course. In the old days they had just plain Bucks County dirt for greens. This four-hole layout was started in Doylestown in 1896, when this Rambler was two years old. It was started by the late George Lyman who wintered in Ashville, N. C. and lived in Doylestown.



THE COURSE was laid out on the grounds where the Bucks County Historical Society is now located. No. 1 tee was located at the corner of E. Ashland and Green Streets. This No. 1 was the longest hole of the course, a par five, leading across the tract to a point near the Bucks County Prison barn. No. 2 hole, a par three, led back to Green Street to a point opposite the former Watson & Son (Dodge) garage. No. 3 took the golfers across the entire layout including No. 1

(continued on page 28)



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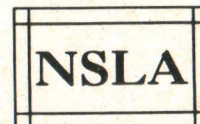
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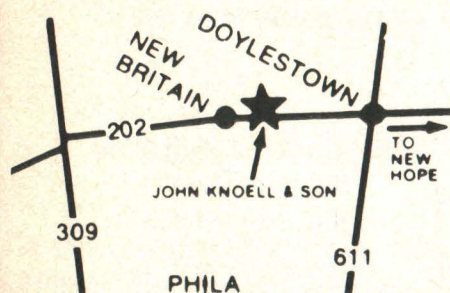
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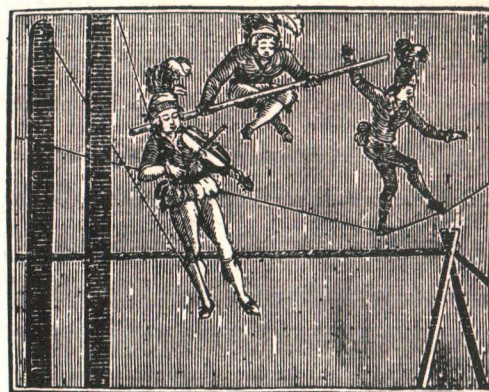
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RUSS con't from page 27

fairway to a point near the intersection of E. Ashland and Pine Streets. No. 4 led back to a point near No. 1 tee.



IN THOSE DAYS, the circuses playing Doylestown used this four-hole golf course field when showing in the County Seat, and when the circus left, the marks of the circus rings furnished the bunkers for the four-hole course. They had cups on the "browns" the same as today but there were no flags marking the holes. On this course four red hearts bore the numbers of the hole with each heart fastened to the top of a thin stick. There was no clubhouse in 1896. To have mentioned a \$200,000 clubhouse in those days would have been nothing but a dream.

AN OLD FRIEND of mine, the late "Unk" Shellenberger, who informed me about the old course, once recalled there were plenty of trees around the four-hole course and that they served tea and passed the bottle under the shade of a big red oak. There's always a 19th hole, even on a four-hole course.

THE LATE GEORGE Lyman, as it was told to me, wore a pink coat with brass buttons and gaitered shoes when he played. Some of the outstanding players on the course included the late Dick Livezey, one of the best players in the county; John Shellenberger, Price Sweitzer, Ed Buckman and a

(continued on page 31)

ANTIQUES *con't* from page 21

20th Century, then some shards of pottery, old buttons and forks.

Keep digging with your trowel, and you'll find the old ginger beer, soda, medicinal, poison and specialty bottles and fruit jars that collectors today are paying wild prices to acquire.

For example, Warner's Safe Kidney and Liver Cure with a blob top (the bottle is blown in a wooden or metal mold and the top is applied) goes for about \$10; a poison bottle with a checkered pattern in clear glass brings \$32.50 and a carnival-glass ginger ale bottle brings about \$12.

When you get into the realm of rare bitters bottles and historical flasks the prices go into the hundreds of dollars. The popular E. G. Cabin Booz in amber, which was made in Philadelphia around 1880 for medicines sold by Dr. Booz (they had so much alcohol in them that booze is part of the language), sells today for \$300.

Then there are bottles shaped like clams, razors, a lady's leg and the like.

These are not often found in dumps today, but many colorful and delightful bottles are. Perhaps you can assemble a collection of blob top beer bottles with the names of various cities in Pennsylvania on them or a collection of pharmaceutical bottles with the names of old-time druggists.

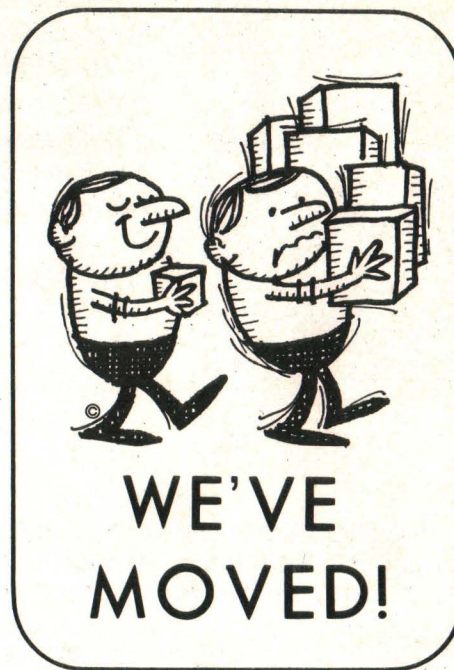
Many bottles can be cleaned with soap and warm water. Others will take a soaking in detergent for a couple of days. Lye will clean, but it is dangerous to play around with.

A while back I bought a hand-blown green demijohn with an irregular top. Very pretty, but the bottom had a tar-like substance. I mixed a lye solution and let it stand in the basement. Then I forgot about it. Two weeks later the bottle exploded. I'm not sure of the chemical reason, but as the water in the lye solution evaporated, what was left heated up and then — bang.

Another problem of bottle hunters is snakes. If you're going upstate, there are rattlers and copperheads to contend with, and some make their nests in old dumps.

Ed avoids them in the summer, going to the Bucks, Montgomery, Delaware and Chester County areas, which are pretty much free of harmful snakes. After the first frost, is the best time to bottle hunt upstate. That's when the snakes go into hibernation.

For a time, Ed would don stove-pipe armour he had made to cover his legs. Now he has invested \$40 in snake-proof boots. I guess he considers that part of the overhead of bottle hunting.



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FRIENDS con't from page 25.

Checks and money orders may be sent to the Joseph H. Heard Family Fund, Philadelphia National Bank, Richboro Shopping Center, Richboro, Pa., 18954.

Mock trials for high school upperclassmen will again be presented by the Bucks County Bar Association during March, according to Frank N. Gallagher, chairman of the Public Relations Committee which has responsibility for their preparation.

It marks the fifth year of the popular public service project which is tailored to introduce students to the court system and prepare them for future jury duty. BCBA won an Award of Merit from the American Bar Association last summer for its sponsorship of the trials.

This year's sessions will be held on the first four Thursday nights of the month. Attendance is by reservations through classroom teachers who may get details from their principals. Invitations to attend the trials went out this week to all public, private and parochial high schools in the county, Gallagher said.

Seating in the courtroom is limited to 190 each night, and reservations are taken on a first-come basis. Every year so far the program has been oversubscribed, so teachers this year are being requested to make accurate estimates of how many places they need.

For Mock Trial purposes a special mini version of an actual trial which took place in Bucks County will be prepared by Gallagher's committee. It will be telescoped to fit the time demands of one evening, but all important elements of a courtroom procedure will be included.

Students from the audience make up the jury. Although the same basic trial is used each week, rotating players make for surprises. So far, at least one week's jury has brought in a verdict different from its predecessors.

Bar association members take the parts of all participants in the trial, often with an assist from law enforcement officers. A judge from the Court of Common Pleas presides each night, and uniformed bailiffs and other court personnel are on hand to lend as much authenticity as possible to the proceedings.

The Lower Bucks County Antique Show will be held at Temple Shalom, Edgely Road, Levittown, Saturday March 4th at 7 P.M. with a champagne opening, and on Sunday March 5th from 11 A.M. to 9 P.M. Donation is \$1.00.

RUSS con't from page 28

number of others. "Unk" Shellenberger was a caddie in those days.

GUTTA-PERCHA GOLF balls and wooden clubs only were used in those days. The best lady golfers in town were not classified entirely from "a best shot" rating, but because of form and swing.

THE COUNTY SEAT is indeed fortunate in having a country club with a fine 18-hole course and a comfortable clubhouse, within the borough limits. The country club is one of the outstanding assets of the community. The official groundbreaking and bulldozing of the first earth removal for a new clubhouse got under way with J. Carroll Molloy Jr., chairman of the permanent improvement committee, explaining in detail.

THE NEW CLUBHOUSE was designed by Frank M. Bates Associates, consulting engineers. The general contractor was A. Luther Nash. Jacob Frater, Doylestown, furnished the electrical equipment; Young & Bowman, Doylestown, plumbing, and W. Arnold Blythe furnished the bulldozer for the first earth removal. The new clubhouse, which then cost \$110,000, was officially opened in December, 1954, just 10 months after Attorney J. Franklin Hartzel, then president of the club, turned the first spade of dirt at the ground-breaking ceremonies. Cocktails, a buffet dinner, music and dancing with 300 participants (including this Rambler and wife) marked the grand opening which was the biggest evening affair in the history of the club up until that time.

COUGH MEDICINE: Bargain "moonshine cough medicine" almost cost Wilson L. Frey of Hilltown Township his freedom when he was convicted of being guilty of possessing and manufacturing intoxicating liquor 40 years ago and was sentenced to pay the costs and a fine of \$500. Frey told the late Judge Calvin S. Boyer, as I recall, that he used two teaspoonfulls of liquor a day for his throat. But State Police of the Doylestown sub-station testified that Frey had enough "medicine" to last him for the next 10 years. More than 30 barrels of liquor, 25 pounds of yeast and a large quantity of mash and charcoal were seized by the troopers. Frey told Judge Boyer that he had been stricken with the "flu" and that a Hatfield physician had advised him to "take a little liquor for his throat." Judge Boyer gave Frey a break by not sending him to jail because it was his first offense and no one was home to take care of his children.

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